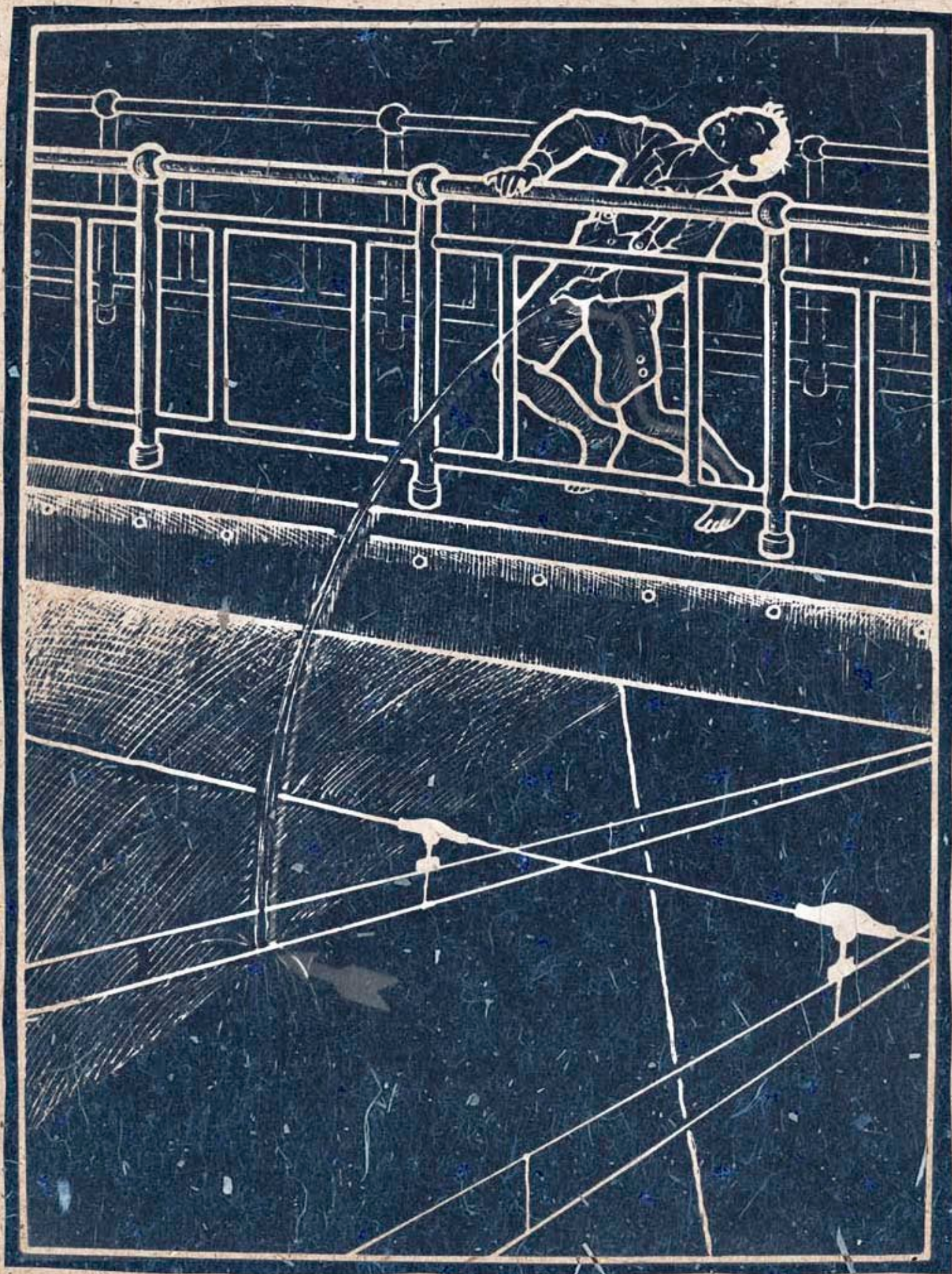




NOW THEN.

A MAGAZINE FOR SHEFFIELD. MURDERHELL. CLIMATE CHANGE. MONO. ISSUE 14: FREE.

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NOW THEN
AN OPUS CREATION

NOW THEN.

ISSUE 14.

MAY 2009.

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- TO REVEAL THE LINKS BETWEEN ART, MUSIC, LITERATURE, CULTURE AND LOCAL POLITICS.
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- TO CULTIVATE AND EMPOWER INDEPENDENT CHOICE, VOICE AND RESPONSIBILITY.

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NO MESSING ABOUT.

PAGE ONE.



EDITORIAL.

MAY.

AFTER THE HARSH, SNOWY WINTER WE ARE FINALLY SEEING SOME SUN. ROLL ON BBQS, FRISBEE AND THE FESTIVAL SEASON...

VINTAGE GRAPHICS ADORN OUR PAGES THIS MONTH, DEMONSTRATING THE DANGERS OF ELECTRICITY BEAUTIFULLY. WE ALSO HAVE AN AMAZING POSTER FROM BRAZILIAN GRAFFITI ARTIST CALMA, I RECOMMEND YOU GET IT PULLED OUT AND UP ON YOUR WALLS SMARTISH.

WE'VE GOT A BIT OF A POLAR BEAR THEME GOING ON THIS MONTH, WITH SAM WEATHERALD AND COUNCIL AXE TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE.

SKIP ON OVER TO SHEFFIELD MEMORIES FOR SOME WEIRD-AND-WONDERFUL, LARGER-THAN-LIFE ACCOUNTS OF THE CITY.

ALSO CHECK OUT THE ALL-NEW FILMREEL PAGE.

SAM.

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SINCE THE SUNNY SEASON IS NEARLY UPON US AND LOCALCHECK ALWAYS HAS ITS FINGER ON THE PULSE, HERE ARE TWO UPCOMING FESTIVALS THAT OUGHT TO TAKE YOUR FANCY.

LOUD AND PROUD IS A FREE LGBT EVENT FEATURING HEAPS OF LOCAL MUSICAL TALENT AND CREAM TEA.

EXTREME ARTS FESTIVAL IS...DIFFERENT.

LOUD AND PROUD.

20TH JUNE. @ENDCLIFFE PARK. sheffieldpride.org.uk.

For those involved in South Yorkshire Pride at Cemetery Park last year, either as a volunteer or as one of the 4,000 revellers who turned out to support the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, it certainly was a proud and happy day for all.

This year the event is back with a new venue and a new name. On Saturday 20th June, Sheffield Pride will take over Endcliffe Park between 1pm and 7pm.

As well as Eurovision blast-from-the-past Scooch on the main stage, the day will feature local acts Smokers Die Younger, Lemon Tear Gas and Darlings of the Splitscreen, plus Sheffield's very own LGBT choir, Out Aloud. There will also be a dance arena, beer tent, community area and civil partnership fair. And for those who favour a slower pace of life, Help the Aged will be providing a tea dance tent complete with cream teas. Because Sheffield Pride is an open, free event for all members of the LGBT community, including families, there will be plenty to keep the kids happy, with a dedicated children's area and entertainment provided by Activity Sheffield and the Sheffield West Ranger Service.

The after party will be held at Hallam Union Hubs with a variety of DJs including Hang The DJ's Ricky Chopra and Ralph Razor.

Events like this would not be possible without the volunteers who give up their time to make sure the day is as good as it can be and keep the spirit of Pride alive for another year. If you would like to help in any way, either before, during or after the event, get in touch with the committee at info@sheffieldpride.org.uk or via their Facebook page.

ALICE CARDER.

EXTREME ARTS FESTIVAL.

4-7TH JUNE. extremearts.co.uk.

What's the first thing that you see when you come out of Sheffield station? A municipal water feature representing a steel forge. So, the first time I checked out the website for Extreme Arts Festival, this was my reaction: Oh, brilliant. Yeah, really imaginative, guys - because, you know, you are the *FIRST PEOPLE EVER* to have thought that the sorry story of Sheffield's illustrious industrial past and current crumbling (yet evocatively moody) decline might make for a first rate theme for a series of art installations.

This, of course, is completely unfair. If the people at Extreme Arts are attempting to make any link to Sheffield's magisterial past it is certainly pretty tenuous. The line-up includes The Lords of Lightning (does what it says on the tin, really) Robocross (you know that strange robotic animal in the Millennium Galleries? Imagine the same project but with a band instead of a giraffe) and The Bureau of Silly Ideas. If there's a unifying theme at all, it's an attempt to anthropomorphise both the detritus of an industrial past (viz. Robocross's Designed Obsolescence) and the generally unnoticed flotsam of everyday British life. That makes it all sound rather more earnest than it actually is, of course.

It's an arts festival, not a sociology textbook, and they're providing two nights of rock 'n' roll and one of reggae and dance to prove it. From the website, at least, it looks as if the organisers won't have too much trouble maintaining a sense of humour and perspective about the essential nature of the exercise which is, quite simply, to have fun.

GEORGIA WALKER-CHURCHMAN.

THE HIDDEN GEM OF SHEFFIELD



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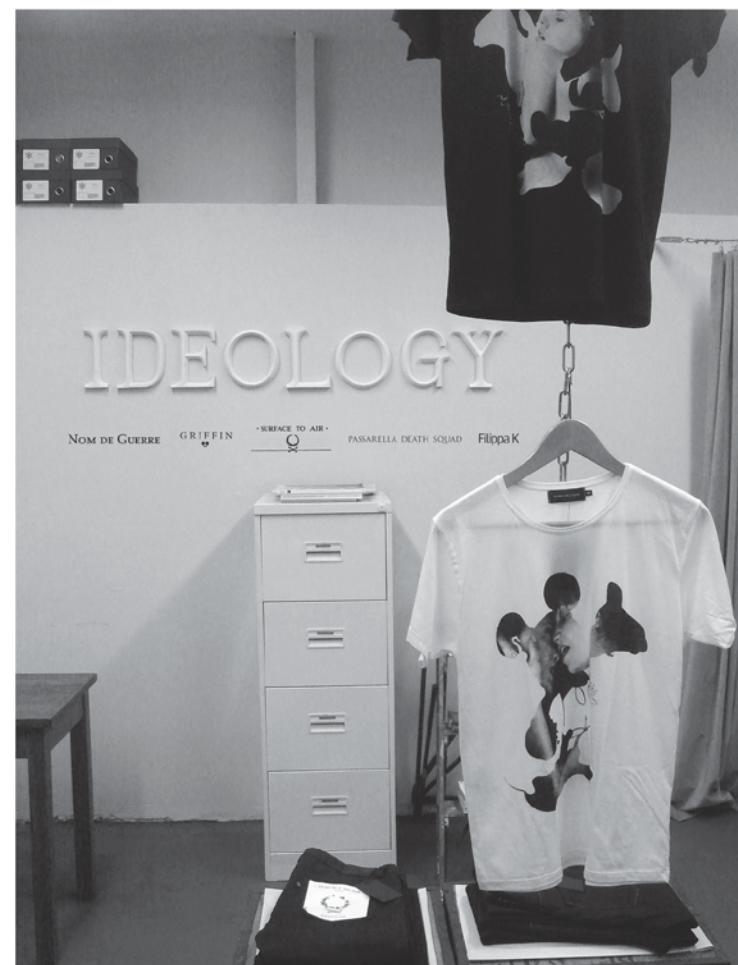
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IDEOLOGY



DESPITE THE UPSIDES OF SHEFFIELD BECOMING THE PLACE FOR PRODUCING FINE WINES AND GETTING TO SEE IF POLAR BEARS CAN EVOLVE GILLS FASTER THAN THE NORTH POLE MELTS, TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOW CREEPING UP THE LIST OF TOWN HALL PRIORITIES.

Each year, Sheffield dumps nearly four million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, mainly from transport, heating for homes and industry. Each year we do that is another step we can't take back. The Council's corporate plan states reducing carbon emissions is "central to everything the Council does". The Green Party councillors see this as a chance for revolution, proposing millions are spent on a district energy network to heat and power the city, training people in insulating houses and supporting low-carbon manufacturing. The Lib Dem administration is planning a more sedate evolution.

The Affordable Warmth scheme is insulating many houses across Sheffield, so people can be nice and toasty without their gas boilers being on carbon emission overdrive. Planning regulations are setting the bar higher for new buildings, promoting things like getting heat from the ground instead of burning old copies of Now Then in the basement. Exciting ideas, like rubbish trucks powered by gas produced from the waste they carry, are coming closer to reality.

The Council's current aim is to cut carbon emissions in Sheffield by 30% by 2020. If the Government helped councils to take a lead in tackling climate change, estimates are this could be 60%. The Council could set carbon allowances for every person in Sheffield, so low-carbon hippies would be touting their allowance to mates wanting another chill out in Bali, while little old ladies invite bids from boy racers desperate to fuel souped up GTIs. But Armageddon is due a bit after the next general election, so the Government won't be jumping in with the legislation and funding yet.

The Council has said one of its jobs is to enable people who want to do something about climate change to do it. Smart Energy meters will soon be available to borrow from libraries, so you can see how much those 16 halogen spotlights in the kitchen cost and how much energy that industrial size toaster (because you never know when a passing army might need toast) uses.

Grants are being given to local organisations like Sheffield Community Renewables to put hydroelectricity generators on the River Don, and Grow Sheffield to support the growing and collection of local fruit and veg.

Another way people are being enabled is through Community Assemblies, starting up this month, where local councillors make decisions on local spending. This year, each Assembly will have a £50,000 fund to tackle climate change in their local area. So if you have an idea for your neighbourhood that needs some cash to get going, be it grow your own, generate your own or pedal your own, then badger your local councillor.

Shifting to a low-carbon city will mean changing how Sheffield lives, works and goes to work. Some people have determinedly changed their lives and how they work to reduce their carbon footprint. Others are like the tired five year old taken away from the fair, looking tearfully back at the shiny guilt-free consumer palace with its bright widescreen colours and endless holiday rides.

If a giant clock of Armageddon appeared in the sky, the hand of doom ticking towards when a runaway greenhouse effect turns the Earth into a molten acid hell, every six hours marked by a horseman of the apocalypse screaming across the Don Valley, then Sheffield might rise up as one and change. But the clock of Armageddon is buried in long technical reports from deeply scientific organisations like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Met Office Hadley Centre, interpreted for us by Al Gore, the BBC or sceptics on Channel 4. So there are still eco-warriors, and eco-worriers, and eco-what-a-load-of-cobblers.

That means that instead of revolution we have evolution as we all pull at different speeds, but the more hands pulling for a low-carbon Sheffield, the lighter work it will be. What you do as an employee or employer - asking your boss to use low energy light bulbs, arguing for a waste reducing scheme to save money and energy or starting up a car sharing pool - will make a difference. What you do in your home - putting more insulation down or switching energy supplier or turning off at the socket - will make a difference.

And next time you vote, remember to check out what the parties will actually do on climate change. You can help Sheffield evolve into a low-carbon city before the polar bears have to grow gills, with maybe a little revolution on the way.

Smart meters to see how much electricity you are using will soon be available in your local library. For details on the Community Assembly Climate Change Fund, see the council website or contact your local councillor - sheffield.gov.uk.

Go to the Sheffield Campaign Against Climate Change site for activities going on in Sheffield and links to more information -

sites.google.com/site/scaccweb/

Sheffield Is My Planet is a Council initiative with information on ways to reduce energy use -

sheffieldismyplanet.com.

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COUNCIL AXE.

WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON AND HOW TO AFFECT IT.

PAGE SEVEN.

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WHY ISN'T EVERYBODY TALKING, OR RATHER SCREAMING, ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE? MOST OF US NOW KNOW WHAT IT IS, KNOW IT'S REALLY HAPPENING AND ACCEPT THE CAUSAL ROLE OF HUMAN ACTIVITY. YET IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE WE'RE TAKING THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT TOO SERIOUSLY. ECONOMIC CRISIS? COMPARED TO WHAT'S COMING, OUR CURRENT PREDICAMENT IS A WALK IN THE PARK.

Many scientists now think we're almost at the 'tipping point', at which catastrophic, runaway climate change is unavoidable. New Scientist estimates that our still burgeoning population of seven billion could be culled to one billion by the end of the century as a result of increasingly volatile weather, famine and wars over dwindling resources as the planet burns. Nature's bailiffs are on their way. It seems fair to say that this is possibly the greatest catastrophe humanity has ever faced, yet bringing it up in company seems at best to be a little embarrassing, at worst conversation ending - like doing an impromptu Ali G impression. There appears to be a consensus among many that, if it is happening, there's certainly not much we can do about it, so we may as well carry on with our lives, enjoy our current luxuries while we still can and stop all the party-pooping doom-mongering. In other words, we're opting to obey the soothing, sexy voice of our collective Sat Nav even though we can see quite clearly it's directing us over a cliff.

Why is this? This is not an ordinary crisis. As George Monbiot has pointed out, unlike most other causes, facing up to climate change involves campaigning to reduce our freedom. Thinking seriously about our responsibilities and our role in the coming environmental crisis should result in a major lifestyle rethink for many of us. Maybe we avoid thinking too hard about climate change because of the unavoidable moral hypocrisy in protesting against the Heathrow expansion while planning that trip to Thailand. Something inside us recognises this but chooses to turn away from the issue instead or twists it into a story we play no part in. We are innately self-justifying creatures, incredibly adept at defending our behaviour to ourselves and others, even when it blatantly contradicts our moral commitments. The psychologist Jonathon Haidt has described our capacity for moral reasoning as more like a "lawyer defending a client than a judge seeking the truth". The plane would be flying anyway, wouldn't it? What difference can little old me make when everyone else is continuing to party like it's 1999? We fail to admit to ourselves that our collective insanity depends on our individual irresponsibility.

So what can we do about it? For starters, drag everybody you know to see The Age of Stupid, the most powerful cinematic attempt so far to deal with the issue. Get upset and get angry. Engage with our currently bleak future emotionally as well as intellectually. It's a painful but spiritually cleansing experience, like an enema for the mind. Next, get active and, above all, TALK ABOUT IT - preach to the converted, preach to the unconverted, preach to the unconvertible.

In November this year, the leaders that serve us are meeting in Copenhagen at the 15th UN Climate Conference to have a chat about where to go next with this pickle we've got ourselves into. If previous meetings are anything to go by they'll fail miserably to agree on anything like the necessary mitigation, yet there certainly seems to be change in the air. Whether or not a new US president will herald real commitment to stopping runaway climate change, or whether the environment will once again be overruled by the suicidal logic of the free market remains to be seen. It is clear that politicians will not and cannot protect us from ourselves, however, unless we show them that we understand what this means for our lives.

If we are going to commit this crime, let us at least have the courage to open our eyes and blame ourselves. Only then will we be able to prepare for the consequences. Only then we will commit to changing ourselves and not making the same mistakes again.

There are numerous climate change related campaigns and organisations to get involved with.

Here are a few:

stopclimatechaos.org

climatecamp.org

transitiontowns.org

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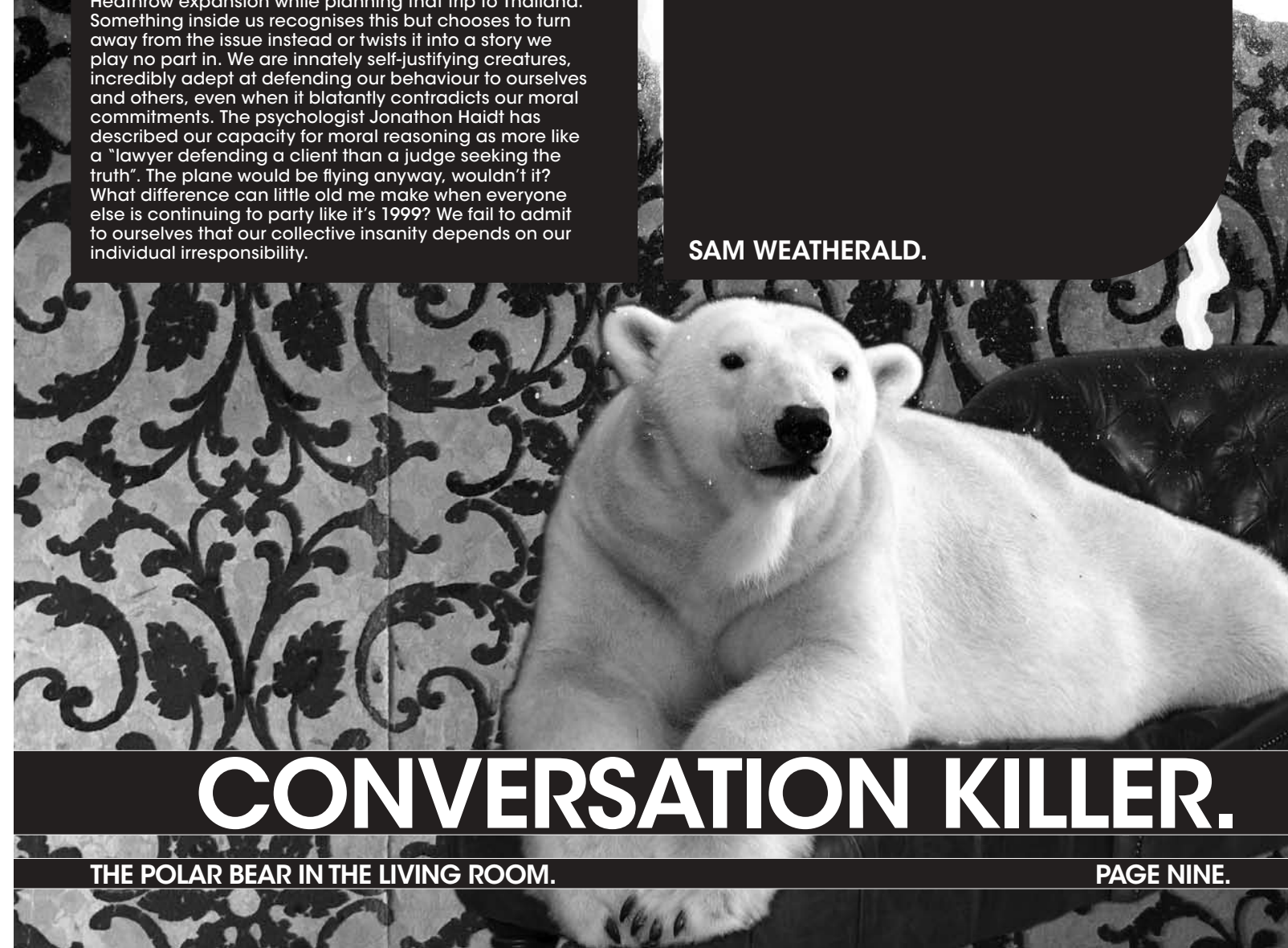
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CONVERSATION KILLER.

THE POLAR BEAR IN THE LIVING ROOM.

PAGE NINE.



I MOVED TO SHEFFIELD FROM ARBROATH, SCOTLAND IN THE EARLY '70S FOR WORK REASONS. TO BE HONEST, I HAD SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE MOVE BUT I MUST SAY THAT IT WAS ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS I HAVE EVER MADE. THE SHEFFIELD PEOPLE INSTANTLY MADE ME FEEL WELCOME AND PART OF THEIR THRIVING COMMUNITY.

Back then, we used to get a free paper delivered called The Sheffield Informer. The second page of this paper was dedicated to letters containing the memories of people in the local community. These letters typified the essence of the city and its people, so I decided to keep a collection of them in a scrap book.

Recently, I began looking back at these scrap books and came to the conclusion that I must somehow share some of these stories with a wider audience. So I decided to compile a book. I'm so glad these Sheffield Memories have come to life once again. I hope you enjoy reading them as much I do.

L.S. DUNONE

AN EGG BEFORE BED

Dear Sir,

Whenever we make boiled eggs, my husband uses the water to make either a cup of tea, do some washing-up or put into a hottie for bed as he doesn't like to waste the hot water. Is this honourable 'green' behaviour or is he just being thrifty?

Loraine Rinse

STRUMMING A GOOSE

Dear Sir,

Last night, I went down to get a glass of water from the kitchen. As I looked out of the hall window I noticed my neighbour practically naked and covered with what looked like animal fat. She was fast asleep lying on the lawn. Her husband was a few feet away strumming a dead goose as if it were a guitar. The thing was, though, they were totally silent so I cannot really complain.

Yours,
Mally Cunder

A HAPLESS SALMON

Dear Sir,

I believe that it's the combination of generosity, persistence and ingenuity that makes the people of Sheffield so special. A classic example of these qualities was Mick Lance.

Mick always enjoyed his visits to the local swimming baths and always watched the England swimming team during the Olympics. I suppose that he was the reincarnation of some kind of fish or seafood. He longed to own a swimming pool of his own, and was always talking about it down at the local pub. We'd listen eagerly as he shared his dream with us, although we all secretly knew that he'd never be able to afford one. Well, would you believe it, one day he proved us all wrong.

For months, Mick collected Perspex off-cuts from round the back of Jennings plastics factory in Upperthorpe. Back at home he had melted these pieces together to form huge sheets. He then went to work in his small back garden. He cleverly decided that if he couldn't make a long pool that he'd make a deep one instead. Within weeks he'd dug a perfect hole, exactly six feet square and thirty feet deep. He then lined the hole with the Perspex sheets and melted all joins together with his gas blow torch. Next, he filled up the hole with water from his kitchen, one bucket at a time. It was a painstaking task but he was a driven man.

Soon enough, Mick had his pool and spent the first day and all night swimming to the bottom and then back to the top. The sun was just coming up when the accident happened. Mick had just reached the bottom of his pool when the perspex walls gave way. The pressure of the collapsing earth on the water shot him up and out of the water like a hapless salmon. He landed in the brambles at the back of his garden which scratched him so badly that he had to go up the Hallamshire where, after hearing of his ordeal, he was placed in a decompression chamber in case he had the bends.

Mick gave up the notion of having his own pool but still could brag to women that he once owned a pool, even if it was just for one day.

Susan Mextant

UNIMPRESSED WITH THROTTLE OUTBURST

Dear Mr Trout,

I was appalled by your outburst at Mrs Throttle regarding her letter about the beautiful tale of love between two unfortunate youngsters struck down by deformity. I found your manner accusing and unsympathetic. I am sure you ventured into the arena unarmed with information regarding this particular occurrence and are therefore unable, in my opinion, to make comment on anyone's mental state other than your own.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise you that anger management help is available and maybe it would be beneficial to someone of your demeanour.

Yours sincerely,
Ms L. Brown

SURPRISE SURGERY

Dear Sir,

I must agree those nurses up at the Hallamshire hospital are terrible. My uncle Ron went up there recently complaining of a chesty cough and came out with a kidney grafted on the back of each of his knees.

Anon

A COLD CIDER DRINK

Hi please.....I know they are not what you might call a tiny friend.....but i can like it mostly, a small bit.

Anyhow, how i have enlightened you with all that i can be, i think you should know I am about to go and enjoy a cold cider at the expense of my husbands pocket.....that finally being said, i wish you well in your endeavours and hope you enjoy any encampment under canvas.

Please feel free to roll your eyes at me any time and combust many packaged tins as it is a must.

Thank you, within reason, naturally,

Anon

FULL MOON FISHING

Sir,

Does anyone remember the rubber coated woman that used to fish for her month's food along the river at midnight every full moon? I was coming back from the pub one starry night when I encountered this lady.

Firstly, she was alarmed at the sight of me as she stood there in her murky waters. But within moments she was insisting that I look into her fishy pouch. Her leather satchel was packed with writhing fish that she had skilfully harpooned with an old stick. I was quite overcome with grief for these fish but also had a tinge of excitement. As I peered into her leathery opening stuffed with the river's harvest, I began to understand what Sheffield is all about.

Soon, she was wading off silently through the brown water, her rubber suit keeping her dry.

Tony Holnes

CASHING-IN ON SENTIMENTALITY

Sir,

The other day, I was walking past the cinema in the high street and noticed all the films that were coming out had a Christmas theme. It's as if everyone is cashing-in on Christmas these days, but I bet they all do well what with how sentimental people get at this time of year.

To me, it's just another part of the cycle. It's like the rings in a tree or watching a record spin around and around all night long. It's like staring at yourself in the mirror, creating an endless loop with your eyes, the ultimate feedback, spinning on and on like conscious hypnosis in a world that is black and white and yet full of colour. Like a waking dream or daydream that never happened or the constant uneasy feeling of déjà vu. That's what Christmas is really about.

Chris Yohimbie

SHEFFIELD MEMORIES.

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G20 WIVES SUCCESSFULLY PATRONISED, CONFIRMS GOVERNMENT



The patronising of the wives of G20 leaders at last month's global summit was "a huge success", according to sources in the British government.

Downing Street was reportedly concerned about matching the standards set at last year's G8 in Japan. On that occasion, the wives of the G8 leaders were made to look particularly foolish by attending kimono folding workshops while their husbands grappled with the serious business of global politics.

However, at the G20 in London the group of women, among them lawyers, academics and politicians, were successfully undermined with a series of events including token school visits, theatre trips and gala dinners attended by Naomi Campbell.

Michelle Obama's flexi-constitutional role and respected legal background were happily shunted aside by the organisers, who treated her to a delightful performance at the Royal Opera House before driving her around London to look at all the lovely buildings. The British media also helped out by devoting front pages to the First Lady's ivory tweed bouclé coat and sunshine yellow dress, which was designed by Jason Wu.

"This was a wonderful opportunity to reinforce global patriarchy," said one Downing Street aide. "We look forward to future occasions when women with established careers can be made to seem like a collection of expensive handbags."

GUITARIST JUST WAITING FOR CIVIL SERVICE CAREER TO TAKE OFF

Despite grinding away his evenings and weekends on the local music scene, 25 year-old Richard Dunham is still convinced that his day job at Sheffield City Council will eventually lead to the big time.

Since graduating from university three years ago, Dunham, 25, has split his time between an administrative post in the town planning division of Sheffield City Council and playing in local synthpop outfit The Slim Wives.

"I was really lucky to get the break down at the Council," said Dunham. "I had to temp there for a long time, but now I've been made permanent there is definitely more of a buzz in the air. Recently I've been asking if I can minute a few meetings down in London, which is the best way to get yourself noticed."

He added: "Some people say it's just a fantasy, but that's why I'm keeping the band going - so I've got a fallback if things don't work out."

Dunham's friends and colleagues are concerned by the amount of time he spends with The Slim Wives, but remain confident that one day he will realise his dream of civil service super-stardom.

"He'll get there in the end," said university friend Neil Davies, now a senior programme officer at the Department of Health in Leeds. "It might seem like he's playing it safe with all that band stuff, but sooner or later he'll get that crucial positive [end of year] review and things will start to change."

Dunham's line manager at Sheffield City Council was equally supportive. "Richard knows success doesn't come overnight and that he's got to put the hours in week in, week out," said Kevin Clarke, who speaks from experience, having laboured in a Gang Of Four-inspired funk-punk trio until well into the 1990s before becoming a professional public servant. "But the guy has clearly got promise. He's already building up quite a following in HR. When the time comes for him to quit this post and move on to bigger things we'll be sorry to see him go."

At this stage Dunham will only say that "the future is unknown", but there are indications that, as the years tick slowly by, unmarked by any improvement in The Slim Wives' popularity or even creativity, Dunham's regular claims of "getting some gigs down in London" will ebb away completely and be replaced by talk of temporary promotions with acting-up pay, the relative merits of a final salary pension scheme and "maybe one day landing a job at the Home Office".

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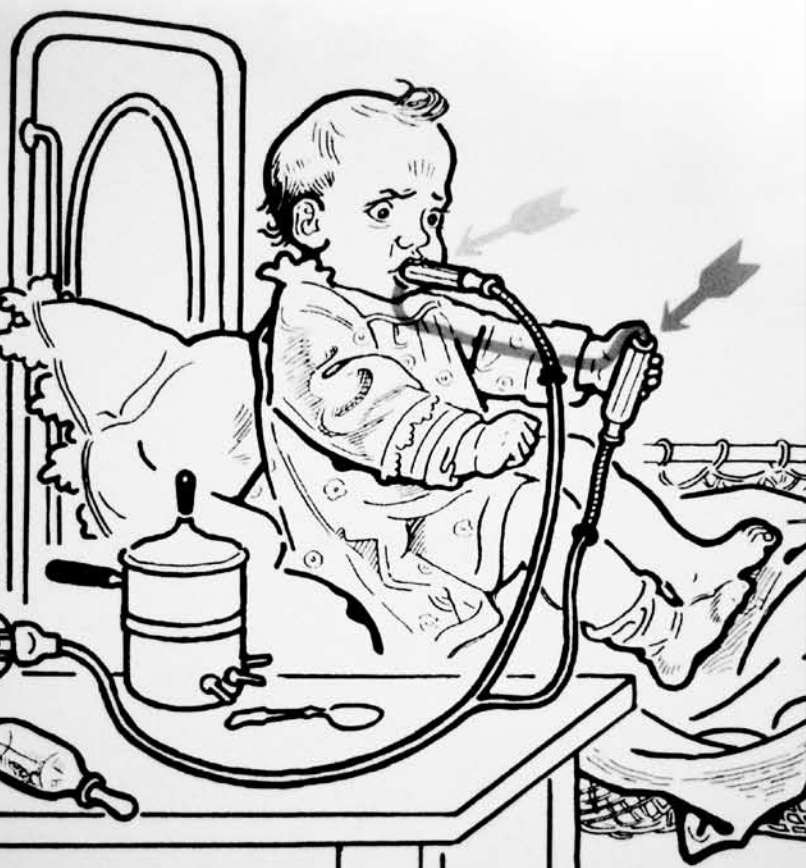
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BACK DROP.

In parks and car parks, swinging monkey like from railings, the duffel coats and parkas framing our just formed heads.

You proclaiming cider soaked wisdom stolen from post water shed channel 4, Holding court with sparkling four letter presumptions; surplus submissions.

And laid upon fresh cut fields, grass in hair and pockets, we witness that same pointed face rubbed into the gravel, by an anger that seemed unimaginable yet necessary in order

to keep the myths and blood flowing. That first twisted back drop that followed us for years to come, through separation and trial.

But those images, now grey and dog eared, lay faded and worn, in denial of their purpose, left in lonely piles to rot.

JONATHAN BUTCHER.

DEAD FLOWERS.

Dead Flowers.

Dead flowers by the Sea laid on sandstone rock.

Weighed down by the pebble she left, that he took.

From the centre of her world he'd gaze all around.

Till she left dead flowers by the Sea, on the sandstone rock

They'd found.

JAMES LOCK.

DESPITE LOSING IT ON FINKLE STREET.

THE POLICE CAR TAGGED THE AMBULANCE ALL THE WAY TO THE VILLAGE. THERE WASN'T MUCH CALL FOR THEM OUT HERE IN THE SILENT HILLS. NORMALLY THEIR ATTENTION WAS PULLED GREEDILY TO THE MORE POPULATED AREAS OF KESWICK AND COCKERMOUTH, SOMETIMES WINDERMERE.

The older of the two policemen hated anything involving death: he was probably in the wrong job really. His partner watched him, could feel his nervousness, his jaw set tight as his gloved hands sheathed the wheel. Young people, middle-aged people, old people, it didn't matter: he said death always made him think of his own kids, and the frailty of life.

"It gets to you," he said. "When you've got kids. Life just becomes more precious somehow."

But the younger policeman, still childless, said that was nonsense. Whether you had children of your own or not you could always feel the cold blunt end of a death. The worst thing was having to look into a relative's eyes and see that what you had to tell them was so impossible it stopped time, it defied everything. And no matter how old the person had been, there was always something momentous about life coming to an end.

"It's the only certainty," he told his partner. "Especially in our line of work."

They already knew this was another death. And the younger policeman knew he was always the one who had to do the dirty jobs, always the one who had to deal with sadness.

The ambulance in front of them slowed as it approached the village, its wheels turning mournfully in respect; its mute sirens useless now and cold above their heads. The policemen followed until they stopped behind the ambulance and turned off the engine. This was what they were paid for.

"Come on," the younger officer said. "Let's get it over with."

*

Six months later. Over the hills and down. A secret like a bone hides like a pebble beneath the water. Its ripples are no longer visible on the surface. Other pebbles from the shore have clothed it, covered it, and forgotten it. But part of the secret, a whisper from cold, buried bones to heated flesh, still reaches out over the boggy landscape. The secret flies in the wind. A fragment of a death. It catches in the eyes of boy meets girl. The secret swirls in a pint glass, unseen, tasteless. It sparks between bodies and mouths that kiss.

*

It was Wednesday. The hump. Slap bang in the middle of the week. Somehow, the wrong day to get drunk. But Rachel didn't care about that.

Now she only thought about two things. Forgetting her grief in the pub every night looking for an antidote to loneliness, and wondering how she would get her body up for work the next morning.

She left the bookshop where she worked in Kendal, turned the key in the door and dropped the silver bundle into her bag. She stepped over the road, brushed her arm against the edge of the toyshop on the corner, and felt her body relax as she entered the pub.

She went up to the narrow bar. She could see the square opening of floor space where the toilets and the fruit machine were, where girls in short skirts and men in old jeans were singing karaoke to an unmoved audience.

Beside Rachel someone coughed and ordered a pint.

"If only they knew what they looked like, eh?" he said.

The music was loud, so she had to shout back to him, which she found ridiculous. Nearly didn't bother. "Well, at least they're having a good time," she answered.

"Oh?" he said. "So aren't you?"

Rachel looked at him. Sized him up. Not bad. Not brilliant, but not bad. He was young, anyway, that was one thing. That was different. She doubted she'd had one as young as this.

And no. Rachel wasn't having a good time.

She moved closer to him, smiled, and said, "Well, not yet, I'm not."

SAM PRIESTLEY.

Despite Losing it on Finkle Street is in stock at Waterstone's Meadowhall and Orchard Square, and Blackwell's Broomhill. It's also available to order on Amazon.

Visit her at myspace.com/sampriestley.

WORDLIFE.

"THIS MUST BE THE LAND OF OZ," SAID DOROTHY, "AND WE ARE SURELY GETTING NEAR THE EMERALD CITY."

I'm not twelve any more so Meadowhall is no longer just Meadowhall, the only place in Sheffield that you can get a direct bus to from my hometown of Wath-Upon-Dearne (15p on the 229), a place with a cinema and Dolby surround sound for films like The Fugitive and Cool Runnings and a mini-version of bowling called Bowlingo and five, yes, five!, sports shops. South Yorkshire Traction is no more and we long since shunned Harrison Ford adventures, shot-put style bowling and JJB Sports for the Showroom and films about Joy Division, the pub, strange things called jobs and the pub some more.

Returning to Sheffield after a five-year hiatus split between Leeds and London, it's impossible not to notice the different demographic that roams the streets of daytime Sheffield city centre. Leeds' Briggate is like a pedestrianised Oxford Street, populated by Girls Aloud types with too much fake tan and nail polish, balanced only by printed brown paper bags from Muji, Topshop and Harvey Nicks and nattering away on the latest mobile. They are interspersed with Northern boys sporting straightened hair, retro Nike windcheaters and Stan Smith trainers to the soundtrack of Kaiser Chiefs ringtones. Speaking of which, why is it 'chiefs' and not 'chieves' when it's 'thieves' and 'loaves'?

Walking up Fargate or down the Moor you're more likely to get stuck behind a pensioner in a mobility scooter or an evangelical street preacher than a band of Cheryl Cole clones with 15 shopping bags between them. The reason for this is simple - they're all at Meadowhall.

Meadowhall first opened in 1990 in the dying days of Thatcher's Britain. It was a star-studded opening with Neil Webb, fresh from Italia '90 signing anything you'd put under his nose. In the coming season Sheff Wednesday would beat Webb's Man United in a cup final and by 2002 he was featured in the Sun under the headline "England star is a postman". There's been no parallel decline in the Meadowhall's fortunes, though, and it consistently attracts around 25 million visitors a year. That's more than the entire population of Australia. More than every church in the UK combined. Meadowhall is bigger than God.

The sounds of 1990s Meadowhall are more memorable than the sights. It had its own soundtrack - an advert on the big screens in the Oasis purporting to show Meadowhall's international feel, with a Chinese woman saying "Meadowhor - choppin cental!" This was complemented by the very cheesy and somewhat contentious "Meadowhall cares" and the request for anyone who got lost to "please meet by the statues at Market Street." Another regular feature of the 1990s was the bomb alerts. Long before OBL and the Beeston bombers, the IRA was targeting pubs and shopping centres the length and breadth of England. Being 200 miles from London was no guarantee of being spared - as Manchester's Trafford Centre tragically discovered. As it liked to advertise itself as "Europe's busiest shopping mall" (apparently that's appealing to some 'normal' people as well as terrorists), Meadowhall was a prime target. The bomb alert featured a robotised voice telling people not to panic whilst huge white shutters came down from the ceiling dividing up each section. Kind of like telling the pig not to squeal whilst closing the abattoir door.

At the age of 17 I got a Christmas job on the WH Smith's CD counter. I'd always wanted to work in a record shop but this was no Jack's Records. Queues halfway round the shop, recycled air and missing CDs were a recipe for disaster. This was pre-minimum wage days and irate shoppers aren't good company. I was scarred for life and haven't been back in years. But on returning to the city with fresh eyes it's clear that Meadowhall is an integral part of Sheffield. Without Meadowhall, Sheffield isn't Sheffield. Having survived the biggest floods in a century and witnessed the loss of the Tinsley towers from its horizon, it's no longer a newborn curiosity on the edge of the city or just a bigger Crystal Peaks. Meadowhall is the retail quarter that keeps the cultural quarter cultural. It's the home of the homogenous that makes the Eccy Road or Devonshire Quarter alternatives appealing.

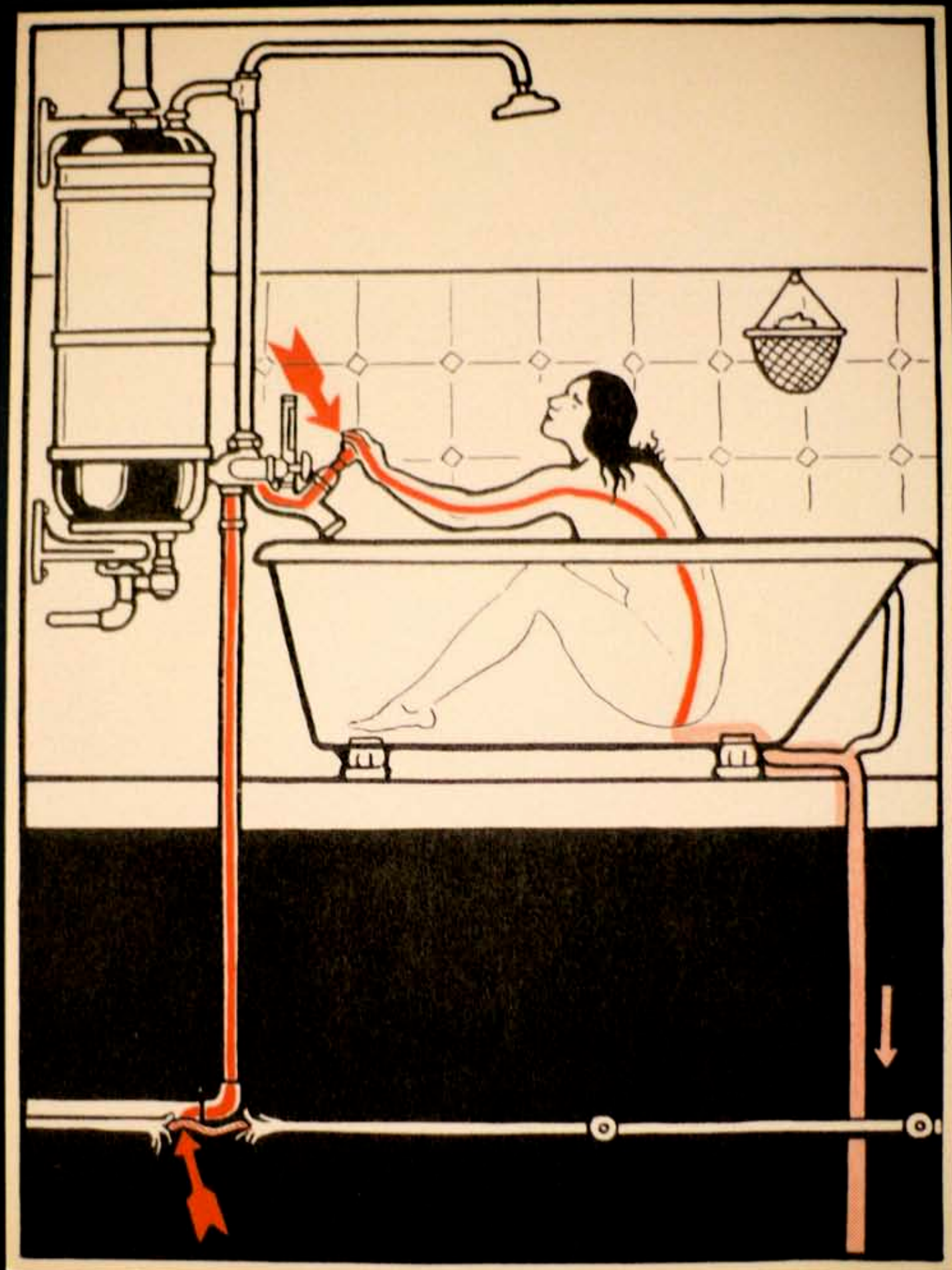
To many, it will always be Murderhell, a congested blot on the landscape to be avoided at all costs. To others, it's retail heaven, an emerald-domed utopia amongst an industrial wasteland. Whichever camp you fall into, there's no denying that Meadowhall is a defining characteristic of our city.

SAM MOODY

still hasn't been back and thinks Meadowhall is best enjoyed from a distance.



MEADOWHELL.



AND WHOEVER SAID THAT ART CAN'T HAVE A MESSAGE?

This month's art comes from a German manual from 1931 on electrical safety entitled 'Elektroschutz in 132 Bildern', and includes such gems as 'Don't read a book outside by lamplight barefoot' - a lesson I'm sure we can all find relevant in today's society.

Even though the main reason these are featured is they make me laugh, a lot of the techniques used are current with the artists we've featured so far - from the characterisation, to strong, dynamic lines, to the fat outlines round important details of the illustration.

I'm a sucker for work where the effort can be seen, and in an age before computers - even what these are - safety drawings, show an investment of talent and time on the part of some hardworking doodler.

It's a lot more honest - I should know, I cheat daily with computers.

Our poster this month is from Stephan Doitschinoff, aka Calma, a true Brazilian heavyweight. He builds his wall work using stencils, rollers, cans and brushes, doesn't give a fuck about traditional graffiti technique, or airbrush perfect can control, just gets it done. Precise, well thought-out forms done perfectly.

His penwork is equally lush, simple, black and white work steeped in the occult, alchemical and religious symbology of his homeland - and is instantly recognisable as his - true style across whatever medium.

Proper graft done well. If you aren't aware of his work, I strongly recommend you look him up at

stephandoit.com.br

And watch this inspiring video... fifteen minutes that I can guarantee you won't mind wasting.

vimeo.com/2301531

The next few months are packed with upcoming exclusives from artists - homegrown cartoon supremos **Tado**, Chicago boy **Matt Sharp**, and gore graphic god **Tom Denney** are all working on their submissions as we speak, and from what I've seen already, we've got some hefty graphic treats in store.

JONES.

HIERO

GAMOS



E AMOR E



AMAR

ALTER

MA PH

E DEVI

ORA

ET LAB

ORAR

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NTIA VA





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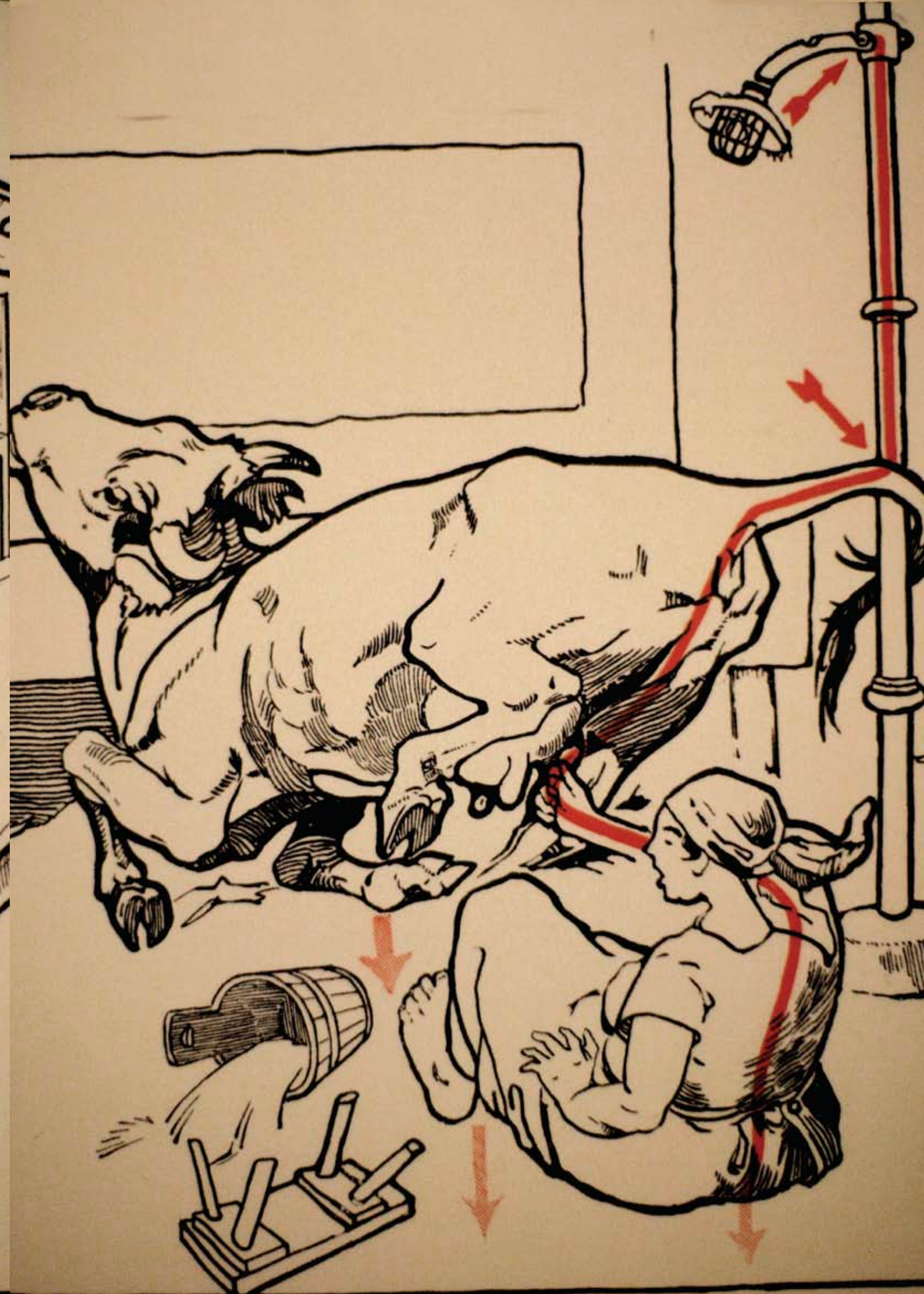
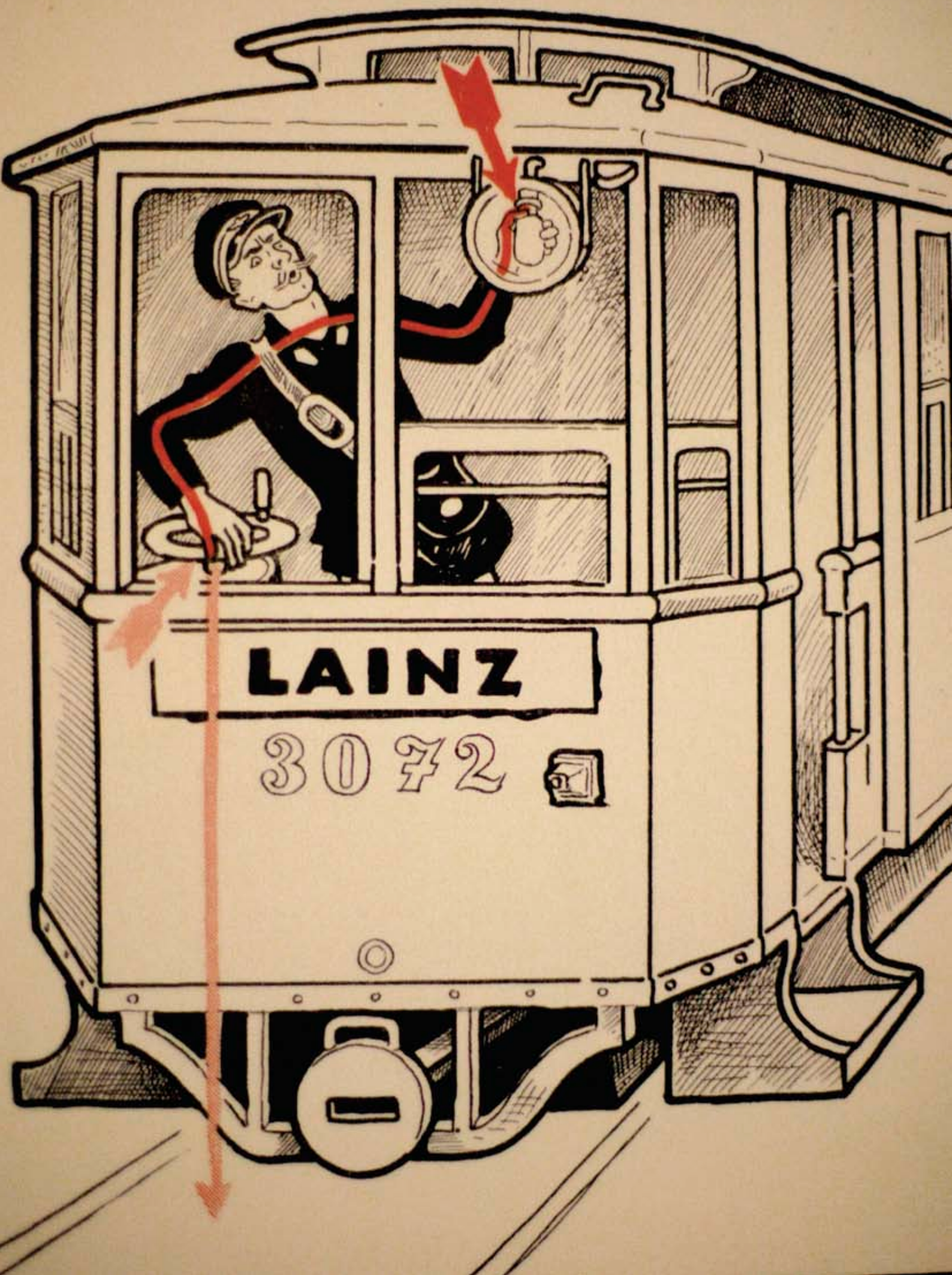
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03/05/09 **Hockey**

04/05/09 - Bank Holiday Special **Lords of Flatbush**
The Violet May

06/05/09 **Skeletons**
The Spires

09/05/09 **Darke Horse**
Henrys Carpet Skip + Left Aljar + The First Floor

15/05/09 - Plug Soundclash presents **Elephant Keys** (formerly Dodgems)
Glass Youm + Stainless + The Stoops

16/05/09 **Tinchy Stryder**
Vex One ft. Nem + J Yezza + JD New Generation

20/05/09 **Mr Hudson**
Mpho + Alan Pownall

22/05/09 - Peace in the Park Fundraiser **The Root One Band**
Legend of the Seven Black Tentacles + Skamel + Mr Meerkat

28/05/09 - Music First presents **Teitur**
Feelix

29/05/09 - Music First presents **Howard Elliott Payne**
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30/05/09 - Music First presents **Toots and the Maytals**

04/06/09 **Pistola Kicks** (EP Launch)
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05/06/09 **Master Shortie**

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26/06/09 - Plug Soundclash presents **Stainless**
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Mon 04 May ALL DAY PUNKNESS with: Buff Gravey And The Gravenettes, Roses From Shit, Optic Nerves, 2 Sick Monkeys, Dead Subvert, X-Rippers, FC Dog, The Eccentrics, Eternal Stench And Paul Carter

Tue 05 May DELTA BLUES, ROCKABILLY FOLK: The Black Oil Brothers (Chicago), Straight Razor Angels (UK) and Bob George Saul (Sheffield). Drs 8

Wed 06 May FREE JAM: Open stage, backline and full PA. All talents and creatives welcomed. Featuring: PRETTY RIPPED and DIONYSIS Doors@8 FREE ENTRY

Thu 07 May ALTERNATIVE FOLK: Doc Brown, THE CLENCH and TBC Drs 8

Fri 08 May WORLD WATER DAY: A Benefit gig featuring live music and Sequoia DJ's.

Sat 09 May MOSH'N'GO PRESENTS: CARMEN GHIA AND THE HOTRODS, DEUCES WILD (80s neo-rockabilly) and A Sailor's Grave with Rock and Roll DJ's to finish. Doors@8

Sun 10 May ACOUSTIC FOLK ROCK: featuring: Fallen Trees (Sheffield), Matt Hegarty (Ireland) and TBC Drs5

Mon 11 May Sheffield Rock Society Presents a Night of live music. Drs 8

Tue 12 May OPEN DECKS: all genres welcomed to come along and spin some tunes DOORS@ 8

Wed 13 May FREE JAM: Open stage, backline and full PA. All talents and creatives welcomed. Featuring: Dan Taylor Drs@8 FREE

Thu 14 May MOSH'N'GO BRINGS POP PUNK: featuring: Rifle Fire Rifle and TBC Drs 8

Fri 15 May KARMA ALL STARS: Themed Party Night... A random evening of quality tunes. Best dressed gets a prize! Spin off @ 10 - music til late

Sat 16 May SUBVERT: bass beats and bleeps doors @10 'til late...last entry 1:30

Mon 18 May FREE JAM: Open stage, backline and full PA. All talents and creatives welcomed. Drs@8 FREE

Wed 20 May INDIE FOLK ROCK: The Old Whores Of San Pedro (Sheffield), Loman (Sheffield), The Dharma (Leeds) and Keelix (Doncaster) Drs 8

Fri 22 May TINNITUS PRESENTS: Sheffield's foremost purveyors of vicious underground electronic music. Spin off @ 9 til late/early

Sat 23 May KARMA ALLSTARS EXTRA - TIBET FUNDRAISER. Drs 10

Mon 25 May FREE JAM: Open stage, backline and full PA. All talents and creatives welcomed. Drs@8 FREE

Tue 26 May PUNK SKA NIGHT: Featuring: Mouthwash, 2 Sick Monkeys, Wonk Unit and Nice One Greg Drs@8

Thu 28 May PUNK ROCK / ALTERNATIVE: featuring Death Job (Sheffield), Pudge (Wakefield) and GK & The Renegades (Liverpool) Drs8

Fri 29 May ASYLUM DRUM AND BASS Drs 9.

Mon 01 Jun FREE JAM: Open stage, backline and full PA. All talents and creatives welcomed. Drs@8 FREE

Wed 03 Jun ACOUSTIC ROCK: Damon Downs (Midlands), Zeds Dead Duo (Sheffield), Tom Carpo(Sheffield), Ash(Sheffield). Drs8

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"SUMMERTIME, AND THE LIVIN' IS EASY."

WELL, MAYBE NOT THIS YEAR, BUT WHEN THE SUN IS OUT IT IS EASIER TO HAVE TO FUN AND WITH THE FESTIVAL SEASON AROUND THE CORNER, A PLETHORA OF PARKS AT OUR DISPOSAL AND THE PEAK DISTRICT AT OUR DOORSTEP IT MAKES LIVING THAT LITTLE BIT NICER.

The change in the climate has blown fresh air into the city, ushering out the dismal winter and reminding us that there is more to life than the bust and boom of industry and economics. There are whisperings and mutterings taking place in community halls, libraries, studios, cafes and even the council chambers about new, exciting, cheap and free activities to liven up our summer and celebrate the cultural diversity of the city. In some cases the whisperings and mutterings have become full meetings, some in places as grand as the Town Hall and the whisper on the lips is music.

As you may or may not know, Sheffield was voted Britain's second most musical city. Whether this is because Sheffield really does have more music than London, Manchester, Glasgow or Bristol (Liverpool won the title), or because more people in Sheffield voted than in these other places, seems insignificant. Whichever way you look at it, it is something to be proud of. Either Sheffield has a huge amount of music or the people of Sheffield are immensely proud of their music - more proud than the cities that have produced artists like Joy Division, Massive Attack or Blur, for example.

This summer the city will showcase some amazing homegrown talent alongside great artists from around the world. The word hasn't hit the streets yet - this is your heads up. All the usual local bangers will be back in true style, starting with Peace In The Park @ Ponderosa Park on 6th June. Keep your eyes peeled for news - we can't give away too much but just as a hint - Warp are celebrating 20 years of film and music and although they left the hills for the big city, they know their roots...

Get to know your roots. This is Sheffield: Music City.

REG REGLER.

SOUNDHECK.

PAGE THIRTY-THREE.

NOW THEN FIRST BIRTHDAY BASH.

2ND APRIL
@DULO&DQ.

AS EVERYONE WHO READS THIS MAGAZINE SHOULD KNOW, THE OPUS BOYS KNOW HOW TO THROW A PARTY. SO IT'S NO SURPRISE TO SEE THEM PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS FOR THIS EVENT - A TWO-PART SMASH UP TO CELEBRATE A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE FINE MAGAZINE YOU'RE HOLDING.

First up, the pre-bar at Dulo, featuring some cracking acoustic music from Louis Romegoux, Dr. Robeatnik and Odysseus Blues, who leave the packed out crowd in raptures.

Up at DQ the usually dark grey room is transformed into a wonderland of bright colours and fantastical images from a year's worth of magazines. Hell, there's even cake! A barnstorming DJ set by The Mighty Mojo, flipping through funk, hip-hop, and electro as well as quite a few cheeky remixes kick things off on the right note before the Lazy Tree Surgeons take up the funk baton and jazz it up. Adding some brass and a sultry vocal, they entice the steadily increasing crowd to grab the hand of the nearest person and start dancing.

Next up come Mean Poppa Lean - the funk commandos! Looking less like a band and more like an 8-legged technicolour musical beast, these boys take it up a notch. By now the room is packed and singer Christian leads the masses as they rampage DQ with excitement, hilarious antics and insanely tight licks.

MPL's display was so impressive, in fact, they leave a tough task for the following acts. In spite of Rossmann Frister's ever-growing musical prowess, atmosphere and wall of sound approach the crowd seem a little too hysterical to take them seriously - a shame really, since this band make serious music and are definitely ones to watch.

By the time 7 Black Tentacles take to the stage the crowd has dwindled a little, but they nevertheless produce the kind of set that has earned them their reputation as one of Sheffield's best bands, pleasing the crowd with guest vocalists, extra band members and all their usual instrumental trickery. Jack Opus brought in the bassweight to the hardcore faithful to polish off another stunning night - roll on the next twelve months!

MAURICE STEWART.

MONO.

24TH MARCH
@CORPORATION.

MONO SEEM TO ATTRACT FANATICAL FOLLOWERS. ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN TO A GIG AT CORP WILL KNOW IT'S NOT FAMED FOR ITS PLACID CROWDS, YET AS SOON AS THE JAPANESE QUARTET TAKE TO THE STAGE ALMOST EVERYONE SHUTS UP COMPLETELY.

They play most of the new album, *Hymn To The Immortal Wind*, opening with slowburner 'Ashes In The Snow' and moving on to new single 'Follow The Map'. Despite having no string players whatsoever, they still somehow manage to perfectly convey the feeling of a record that is their most orchestrated to date. After moving back a few paces for fear of my brain exploding, everything flows from the stage in a hypnotic trance. This is music that gives you tunnel vision - not a group phenomenon but completely introspective, layered and expansive. Hence the silent crowd, I suppose.

Mono are one of the loudest bands I have ever heard. There's something about the way they patiently build up a song and savour the moment that makes the release all the more sweet. They redefined 'loud' and left a faint ringing in my ears that reverberated for days, a welcome reminder of a band that, despite being quite typically 'post rock', stand head, shoulders, knees and toes above the rest.

SAM WALBY.

FOLK & FEAST.

11TH APRIL.
@BROOMHALL
CENTRE.

THIS YEAR'S PEACE IN THE PARK FUNDRAISERS HAVE BEEN TRULY OUTSTANDING. IT IS A WORTHY CAUSE AND A JOY TO SEE SO MANY PEOPLE GETTING INVOLVED AND SHOWING THEIR SUPPORT FOR WHAT IS RAPIDLY BECOMING ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS IN SHEFFIELD'S CALENDAR.

On this particular evening the selfless fundraisers organised a perfect event for a spring Sunday - Folk and Feast, a veritable banquet set to some of the city's great folk music.

In true P.I.T.P style it seemed almost everyone was pitching in. The P.A. was cobbled together with pieces from various beneficiaries, the sound engineering was shared between two of the artists performing, the venue transformed from post-party bomb-site into a distinguished flagship of the festival by willing hands and this is all without a mention of the food on offer.

Sets from Carl Woodford and The Free Roaming Folk Band were of particular note but the lingering memory of this night will be the atmosphere. £850 was raised for the big day and if this kind of momentum can be carried on to the Ponderosa on 6th June then we'll all have a day to remember for a long time to come.

JOHN SWIFT.

PRODIGY.

13TH APRIL.
@SHEFFIELD
ARENA.

PRODIGY'S GIG AT PLUG LAST YEAR SOLD OUT IN A FEW HOURS, SO IT WAS LITTLE SURPRISE TO SEE A MASS TURN OUT FOR TONIGHT'S SHOW.

Support act Dizzee Rascal is as tight as ever. His flow continues to confirm him as one of the UK's most dexterous rappers and his latest material retains Dizzee's characteristically playful lyrics. New single 'Bonkers' goes down well and freestyles over the Ting Ting's 'That's Not My Name', while being slightly cringe worthy, show a man who is crossing influences and reaching even further into mainstream appeal.

It is with a sense of sweaty anticipation that Prodigy cross the stage. I swiftly position myself away from the highly excitable topless men tensing themselves in preparation, while approaching the front of an arena that could be better described as a riot than a crowd. Drawing mostly from earlier material, sprinkled with February's release *Invaders Must Die*, Prodigy jump around in front of a wall of lights and sound, inciting questionable dancing from everyone. Blissfully unaware teenage couples embrace to 'Smack My Bitch Up' and people are still singing 'Out Of Space' on the tram home.

Old School.

JOE KRISS.

SOUNDHECK.



FINK.

SORT OF REVOLUTION.

FINKWORLD.CO.UK

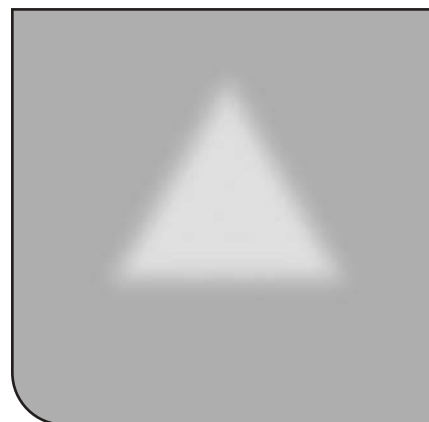
PICKING UP VERY MUCH WHERE HE LAST LEFT US IN 2007, THE SOLE SINGER SONGWRITER ON NINJA TUNE, FINK, RETURNS WITH AN ALBUM DRIPPING WITH ATMOSPHERIC BLUES AND DUB-INFUSED FOLK.

To listeners familiar with Fink's previous work, *Sort of Revolution* will either delight or disappoint. Trademark fingerpicked guitar melodies lead the way and as always the mixdown is subtle. Gentle brush and cymbal work with warm, simple basslines to punctuate the whispered layering of Fin Greenall's distinctive vocals. All lovely touches and most pleasing to the ear, but having followed Fink's music since he broke away from a lifetime of DJing to pick up the six string, there is a part of me that yearns for something more. Don't get me wrong, this album has all the grace and introspective lyricism that has drawn so many to hold this songsmith close to their hearts.

Tracks like 'If I Had Million' echo Fink's early sound, the hypnotic a-cappella of 'Q&A' captures the true beauty of Greenall's voice. Then there is the matter of his lyrics - moody, personal and honest to the point of discomfort. 'Nothing Is Ever Finished' stands out particularly on that note. The album will also draw attention due to soul star John Legend's contributions, co-writing 'Maker' and 'Move On Me' as well as guesting on piano. Legend's appearance on the record adds to Fink's impressive list of collaborators, himself having appeared on Bonobo's last record and lent vocals to Nitin Sawhney both on record and for his Electric Prom performances. Ex-Crash Test Dummies member, Son of Dave, also appears on this record.

This album works and it is music you will come back to, but it feels like this is Fink barely trying. From the first moment on his first album to the last minute of this latest work, Fink has oozed luscious intoxicating melodies without effort. I can't help but imagine what might happen if he tried...

REG REGLER.



OLYMPIC SMOKER.

NOISE AND ECHOES.

**MYSPACE.COM/
OLYMPICSMOKER**

NOISES AND ECHOES IS OLYMPIC SMOKER'S SECOND RELEASE ON CHINESE NETLABEL BYPASS. THE 19-YEAR-OLD RUSSIAN GAVE OUT HIS FIRST TUNE VIA SHOKI RECORDINGS IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR AND SINCE THEN HAS REFINED HIS STYLE TO INCLUDE MORE AMBIENT AND GLITCH SOUNDS.

The result is a full-length album that is best described as electronica with a nervous twitch.

The best offering here is probably 'Gallad of Busar', a tuneful glitch track that drops out half way through, only to come back stronger at twice the speed. Not for the faint hearted but certainly a textbook case of netlabel music.

While some tracks sound like dystopian ringtones, namely the trance-like wall of synths on 'Electronic Minced' and the maniacal melodies of 'When Reality Needs Some Filter', others strike an almost perfect balance between percussion and tune.

The piano-led 'Quintessence' keeps you waiting just long enough to enjoy the blissed out rhythms that cut in at the half way point and the microscopic beats in '5435' bounce around inside your skull in the best possible way.

The album is interspersed with short ambient interludes that create an interesting flow but sometimes stunt its progress. 'Instant Happiness' is annoying short, cutting out just when it should be kicking off, while closer 'Futurum' is definitely the runt of the litter, a twisted little outro that falls in and out of key and generally confuses the ear.

There is still undeniable room for improvement but, for now, *Noises and Echoes* is a fair indication of budding potential and future beauties from this youthful Russian.

Download the album for free at bp.bai-hua.org.

SAM WALBY.



DJ VADIM.

HIDDEN TREASURE E.P.

BBEMUSIC.COM.

SUMMER IS UPON US AND IN TRUE STYLE DJ VADIM HAS RELEASED A RECORD TO SEIZE THE DAY. *HIDDEN TREASURE* EP CAPTURES ALL THE SKA/REGGAE-INSPIRED BOUNCE OF THE SEASON AND IS A RECORD WITH A GUARANTEED SMILE FACTOR. THE JUMPING OPENING OF 'HIDDEN TREASURES' FEATURING THE INCREDIBLE VOCALS OF SABRIA JADE SHOULD HAVE ANY LIGHTEARTED LISTENER'S FOOT TAPING AND HEAD NODDING IN MOMENTS - BEAUTIFULLY SAMPLED HORNS, A SKA BEAT AND LATIN PERCUSSION MAKE THIS OPENER AN INSTANT SUMMER CLASSIC.

The dub flavoured 'Soldier' featuring the truly immense French rapping of previous Vadim collaborator Big Red complements 'Hidden Treasures' perfectly, bringing the pace down but retaining the momentum and overall up tempo feel of this release.

'Saturday', complete with vocal contribution from Pugz Atomz, is the weak link here although the track acts as a careful reminder of Vadim's status as the original T.E.R.R.O.R.I.S.T and old school hip-hop head.

The full album release *U Can't Lurn Imaginashun* is due for release in early June and frankly, I can't wait!

REG REGLER.



RICHARD KITSON.

**MYSPACE.COM/
RICHARDKITSON**

REVIEWING A MYSPACE PAGE IS NEVER A COMPLETE PROCESS. RICHARD WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CHANGE HIS TOP SONGS, PERHAPS INCLUDE A LIVE PERFORMANCE OR TWO, MAYBE ONE DAY EVEN CHANGE HIS SEX TO 'FEMALE' AT THE TOP... CRAZY, CRAZY MYSPACE.

However, this medium does allow a reviewer such as myself the opportunity to talk enthusiastically about his commitment to old forms, his pure undefiled skill on vocals, guitar and harmonica and his youth. Richard's a young un' with a lot of experience - a rare combination. He's been gigging for a long time now, showing heart, guts and a distinct lack of pretension that elevates him above folk playing a similar style.

My favourite tune on his page is 'Gambling Woman' - I like the lyrics - I like the slide. Myspace, however, reports that 'Redundant Blues' is its fave - myself and Myspace have agreed to disagree on this.

Richard Kitson is well worth a listen and well worth a fiver on the door. This Barnsley-based musician found writing/performing in the style of his heroes Jessie Fuller, Led Belly, Bob Dylan and Bert Jansch is a testament to effort, skill and that shining ideal that should get us out of a warm bed each morning - doing what we love.

JAMES LOCK.



MEAN POPPA LEAN.

HOT NEW TRACKS.

**MYSPACE.COM/
MEANPOPPALEAN**

FOLLOWING SWIFTLY AFTER THEIR DEBUT *SMASH & GRAB* EP, MEAN POPPA LEAN HAVE UNLEASHED 3 NEW TRACKS FILLED WITH THE KIND OF FUNK, ROCK AND FILTHY SOUL THAT WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED WITH THE GODFATHER OF SOUL.

Long standing Opus collaborators, MPL's ruthless domination of the Brighton scene has existed for several years and after storming the Now Then Birthday in April the MPL boys are bringing their noise to a laptop/ stereo near you...

Phattened up by a new horn section, MPL's sound is simultaneously sublime and ridiculous. Tight mean grooves, dirty-ass bass lines, whale-clubbing guitars, all manner of smooching, screaming, howling vocals and now carrying the extra weight of the brass, MPL's musicianship is astounding but what truly makes its mark is their sense of humour. Stand out track 'Sheryl Crow' has a disco beat with dirty bass and meaty guitars, an impassioned ode of love and devotion to Shezza. Nuff said really.

Check these kids out online or catch them live headlining the Opus stage at Peace in the Park on June 6th.

WILL HUGHES.

REVIEWS.

PAGE THIRTY-SIX.

FINK. OLYMPIC SMOKER.

DJ VADIM. RICHARD KITSON. MEAN POPPA LEAN.

REVIEWS.

PAGE THIRTY-SEVEN.

MONO ARE A HARD WORKING BAND. A TOUR THAT INVOLVES 38 GIGS IN 18 COUNTRIES IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY, BUT FOR THEM IT SEEMS PRETTY ORDINARY.THE JAPANESE QUARTET’S FIFTH ALBUM, HYMN TO THE IMMORTAL WIND, IS THE SOUND OF A MATURING BAND THAT IS STILL INVENTIVE AFTER TEN YEARS ON THE CIRCUIT. CLASSICAL INFLUENCES HAVE TAKEN CENTRE-STAGE, A FACT PROVEN BY USING POLISH COMPOSER HENRYK GÓRECKI’S ‘SYMPHONY OF SORROWFUL SONGS’ AS AN INTRODUCTION PIECE TO THEIR NEW SET.

I BRIDGED A (SLIGHT) LANGUAGE BARRIER BY TALKING TO GUITARIST AND FOUNDING MEMBER TAKA GOTO ABOUT STRINGS, SWEDISH PROMOTERS AND STEVE ALBINI BEFORE A FIGURATIVELY BLINDING AND LITERALLY DEAFENING SET AT CORP..

GIGGING SEEMS TO BE A LARGE PART OF WHAT YOU DO AS A BAND. DO YOU GET TIRED OF IT AT ALL?

Yeah, it’s very important to Mono. Last time around we recorded **You Are Here** and did a tour and by the end we were a little bit bored. But now we’ve done another one and we’re really excited again. Hopefully we’ll do a world tour in 2010.

HYMN TO THE IMMORTAL WIND IS MORE HEAVILY ORCHESTRATED THAN YOUR LAST ALBUMS. WERE THEY FRIENDS OR SESSION MUSICIANS?

We’ve been recording with the same string players since our third album, **Walking Cloud and Deep Red Sky, Flag Fluttered and the Sun Shined**, so they’re all friends now.

WAS IT A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO GET THEM MORE INVOLVED?

Yeah, I’ve been writing and recording scores for about five years, for the last three albums, all the time learning more and more. This time I had the confidence to do it for a 24-piece orchestra because I was interested to see how it would sound. We are all really into classical music and horror film soundtracks so it was only natural for that part of the music to grow.

I was pretty nervous about it though. Steve [Albini] doesn’t like to punch in and punch out with loads of takes so we recorded the whole orchestra with eight mics onto two channels on the mixing desk. If I found a problem – the volume of the cello or something – we’d just move the mics around the room till it sounded smooth. It’s better for atmosphere but you can’t change particular sounds afterwards.

HOW IS STEVE ALBINI’S APPROACH DIFFERENT TO OTHER PRODUCERS’?

I’m always amazed by Steve. He’s an incredible genius. We’ve always hated over-produced albums – when there’s too much overdubbing and editing. We’re pretty lazy – we just want it to be the same as playing a show. Steve loves recording live sessions so it was really easy. Almost all of the tracks on the new album were done in one or two takes and the whole thing took ten days.

For our first album we recorded digitally with Pro Tools and I didn’t like it – something was missing; it lacked emotion. We knew Steve was an amazing analogue sound engineer so that’s the main reason we chose him. Tape is easy because it has a natural compression. Our songs have huge dynamics but with tape you can get a smooth compression.

YOU USED TO WRITE ALL THE MONO MATERIAL. IS THAT STILL THE CASE?

This is the first album that we’ve all completely come up with our own parts, from beginning to end.

HOW IS INDEPENDENCE IMPORTANT TO MONO?

Independence is our whole life. We’re really lucky because, even though we’re getting bigger, we can still control everything we do. Nobody complains or forces their opinion on us – we can make every decision ourselves.

WHY DID YOU SIGN TO TEMPORARY RESIDENCE, AN AMERICAN LABEL, RATHER THAN A JAPANESE ONE?

We’ve been friends with **Temporary Residence** founder Jeremy deVine for about eight years now, since before we signed with them, so he’s like family really.

DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE A BIGGER FOLLOWING IN EUROPE AND AMERICA THAN IN JAPAN?

In the independent or ‘underground’ scene it seems smoother to base yourself in Europe and America. In the past few years Japan has caught up a lot, though. We all still live in Japan. So we tour, come home, tour again, come home...

ONE OF THE SCENES IN YOUR DOCUMENTARY THE SKY REMAINS THE SAME AS EVER SHOWS YOU ASKING A PROMOTER IF HE’S EVER HEARD YOUR BAND AFTER DOING A GIG IN A SWEDISH CAFE. HOW IMPORTANT IS CHOOSING THE RIGHT VENUE FOR YOU?

[Laughs] That caused a lot of problems! I wish we hadn’t used that scene, man. Since then all Swedish promoters have hated us - after one show. Swedish fans complained about it too because we haven’t done a show there since. They say, “Oh, why haven’t you come to Sweden?” and I have to explain that it didn’t work too well. But yeah, our music isn’t rock and roll – we don’t play party songs. So it’s always important to choose a good venue, you know. I don’t want people to think I’m snobby, but we have to say directly if we have a problem since we don’t really have a manager.

We definitely shouldn’t have used that scene in the documentary, though! [Laughs] Last year, after recording we went to Los Angeles to master the new album and some guys said, “Hey, are you Taka from Mono? Why don’t you like Swedish promoters?!” One scene – shit!

THE KIND OF MUSIC YOU PLAY ENCOURAGES A MUCH MORE INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUDIENCE AND BAND THAN PARTY SONGS...

Yeah, they’ve paid the money and they’ve been waiting a long time to see our show. Our fans are always very, very quiet and very into the music. It was a bit of a shock when we went on tour in America in 2001/2, when we were playing in bars with drunk people talking over us. We were really patient and eventually we started playing the right venues.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ARTISTS OR BANDS HOPING TO BE INDEPENDENT LIKE YOU?

You know the band Envy? They’re also from Tokyo and signed to Temporary Residence. They’re a crazy hardcore band but their spirit is very respectful and nice. Start small and build up, all the time keeping control of what you do... We are pretty fortunate, to be honest. You just have to be stubborn until you get what you want.

**SAM WALBY.
speaking to
MONO.**



MONO.



OLIVE BAR.

73-75 DIVISION ST.
OLIVEBARANDRESTAURANT.CO.UK

Olive Bar and Restaurant is located on Division St. It's independent and has our stamp of approval. Despite its closeness to such 'fine' establishments as Players Bar and Varsity we favour it...Oh yes we do.

Here are some of our reasons:

- It's run by an artist.
- It regularly provides a platform for local music. (Thursdays - call for availability)
- It serves WINE & CHEESE (There is a need for CAPS here).
- They have a dominos league (Sundays).
- They have pie nights from a fiver (Also Thursdays).
- They serve cocktails that don't taste like they're made from the sediment of other cocktails.

Olive is a restaurant and bar. You can take your lady there and not fear she thinks you're homeless. You can take your mates there without worry for your sexuality. Quite frankly it covers all bases and it does it well.

Olive, we are told, is releasing a new cocktail menu. In celebration of this, they have kindly told us to inform you that cocktails between the hours of 3pm and 9pm will be 2-4-1, while on a Sunday afternoon they'll do you 4 tapas dishes for £9.95 until 6pm.

However, the biscuit thief for me is the 50% off all food deal on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Lastly, we'd leave you with the simple sentiment that Olive Bar has gone beyond the meat market remit and has delivered. Visit, enjoy and send us your thoughts.



URBAN DELI.

CAMPO LANE.
URBANDELI.CO.UK
0114 276 3218.

Urban Deli is located behind the Cathedral on Campo Lane, just off West St. You'll find it on our map. Urban Deli is pushing its credentials as a supporter of local produce and local business.

It is largely the fruit of Phil Mottram's labour. Good man. Phil works his socks off to bring Sheffield not only one of the greatest sandwich and deli counters in our city, but also to bring independent traders together. He works locally-sourced ingredients into the recipes of the food that you and I buy. He does this in several ways. Firstly, by using and promoting local sources within his own business. Secondly, by acting as a link between businesses, offering a delivery service between local wholesalers and local traders. Urban Deli see this as taking the fight to the supermarkets, as it starts its campaign to support the region's trade during the current economic downturn.

As regulars will know, things have been changing down on Campo Lane. Phil feels that buying directly allows him the peace of mind that he is getting the best quality and price, both of which can then be passed on to the customer. In most cases it's cheaper and tastier than the supermarket. This means the customer can spend their grocer pound in the knowledge that a high percentage is going back into the local economy to support businesses and jobs. This isn't some faceless supplier - it's the small smokehouse in Bolsover, the local baker and the farmers. People talk about making a difference - this is a great opportunity to do so while also saving money.

Urban Deli will be offering an ordering service for city centre workers and residents for meat, speciality bread and fresh produce, all to the customer's requirements.

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+ FLOOD OF RED
+ YASHIN

TUE 5TH MAY - £12.50 ADV - 7PM *

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LAIKA DOG

+ SUPPORT

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+ BLAKFISH

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+ CARNIFEX
+ WAR FROM A HARLOTS MOUTH
+ ARSONISTS GET ALL THE GIRLS
+ SUCCESS WILL WRITE
+ APOCALYPSE ACROSS THE SKY

THU 14TH MAY - £6 ADV - 7PM *

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+ SUPPORT

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+ MYBE

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+ FAIRWAY VIEW

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+ COTHERIA

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THE LEADMILL

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WATCHMEN. (2009)

DIR:
ZACK SNYDER.

IT'S A WORLD WHERE SUPERHEROES HIDE BEHIND THEIR MASKS, ASHAMED OF THE HUMANITY THEY NO LONGER BELIEVE IN TO PROTECT. AN IMAGINARY SOCIETY, BRILLIANTLY CONCEIVED BY ADJUSTING ONLY A FEW REAL HISTORICAL EVENTS AND BY SPECULATING ON THE INTRICACIES OF AN IMPROBABLE POLITICAL CONTEXT.

All this has been preserved and faithfully translated from the original graphic novel by Alan Moore to its big screen adaptation by Zack Snyder. But the greatest achievement of this film is not the recreation of this world of impending nuclear catastrophe in which Nixon is persistently re-elected and the threat to American values has the red overtones of Communism. The film excels in its uncompromising portrayal of morally flawed characters with a murky past and their dubious intentions in a society which has used and outlawed them. It is, in this sense, more of a philosophical study of our humanity than a relevant political statement of any kind.

As before, Alan Moore has had his name removed from the credits. Being a big studio film, this might lack the exact subversive grit of certain 'factual' aspects of his masterpiece, but it's still superior to any of the other Hollywood adaptations of his work. It won't be for cinema what the graphic novel was for comic books, but that was always to be expected. Watchmen has been and gone from our screens but, just like the graphic novel, it's somehow here to stay.



BABA YAGA. (1973)

DIR:
ORRADO FARINA.

ALTHOUGH ADAPTED FROM THE MASTER WORKS OF GUIDO CREPAX, WHOSE VALENTINA SERIES OF ADULT COMIC STRIPS FROM THE 1960S ALREADY REPLICATED CINEMATIC TECHNIQUES IN AN INNOVATIVE WAY, BABA YAGA IS A REMARKABLY UN-CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE. THE FILM ENDURED AN EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF CENSORSHIP, WHICH CERTAINLY CRIPPLED THE FINAL RESULT, BUT, ALONG WITH THE UNDENIABLE MISCASTING OF THE TWO MAIN CHARACTERS, THE DIRECTOR'S UNEVEN APPROACH TO THE MATERIAL IS JUST AS RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS ULTIMATE FAILURE.

Swaying between blind worship of the source material (leading to awkward attempts to recreate the aesthetics of the comic books in an all too literal way) and the commercial need at the time to tailor it to fit the giallo genre, the film bypasses the essence of Crepax's works. Instead of the multi-faceted structure of fashion infused with Freudian instincts, we have nothing but a mere focus on the surface which not even the supernatural touches of the narrative can dispel. Instead of Valentina's spiritual liberation by means of sadomasochistic fantasies crossing over into reality, we find a superficial kinkiness constrained by precisely the Italian patriarchal grip that the books rebelled against.

Valentina was ahead of its time and is still definitely worth re-discovering as an inspiring artefact from an era most of us feel directly or indirectly nostalgic for. Its inventive use of nothing more than black ink on white paper also paved the way for a lot of other ground-breaking works of art in the same medium.

JOÃO PAULO SIMÕES.

THIS SECTION IS DEDICATED TO ALL THAT IS GREAT AND GOOD IN SHEFFIELD. If you've got any recommendations for us, give us a shout at - favourites@nowthensheffield.com.

WATER AID.

8TH MAY.
@RED HOUSE.

For years, WaterAid has been working with promoters and artists to run fundraising nights in many cities across the country, most notably with the organisers of the epic Glastonbury Festival. The charity, which raises money to improve the quality of sanitation in countries across the globe, has been growing steadily since its formation back in 1981. While the very successful Oxjam franchise has been a regular fixture in Sheffield, we have yet to see a night of live music and DJs dedicated to WaterAid. All that is about to change...

In these dark, recessionary times, there can be no better way to lift our desperate spirits than a night of dancing and banter, all in the name of charity. And make no mistake, WaterAid is not just any charity: its work provides 17 countries across Asia and Africa with sustainable, local water supplies and hygienic latrines. The night's line-up boasts seasoned local music veterans Mojo and the Beatniks and the very exciting jazz/post rock fusion of King Capisce, supported by DJ sets from Sequoia Soundsystem, alongside Swank & Jamz, Jack Orion and Mantra from Sheffield netlabel Planet Terror Records. It promises to be very good fun and to supply your needy ears with some exceptional local music. Free cakes for all who get involved. Find out more about the charity at wateraid.org.

RAVE AGAINST RACISM.

SUNDAY 24TH MAY.
@ CORPORATION.
RAVEAGAINSTRACISM.ORG.

Rave Against Racism was set up in January 2009 by Jamie Headcharge and John P. Jamie is the founder of the legendary Headcharge and Dubcentral nights, as well as being a main member of the Peace in the Park festival and many other musical projects like the Made In Sheffield album.

Rave Against Racism does exactly what it says on the tin. It was established to combat the rise of the far right through the medium of massive parties and crazed dancing. Through its events it tries to get people involved in local community groups and take an interest in politics, with a view to curbing rising fascist sentiments in the UK.

The first Rave Against Racism event will take place at Corporation on 24th May with a huge line up of local, national and international artists. Spread over three rooms, the night will cater for all raving tastes, including techno, trance, house, dub, dubstep, electronica and breaks.

Representing Sheffield will be Kickflip (Fat! Records), Alex Deadman and Walker (Junglist Alliance), Mikey J (Tuesday Club), Fattasound (Dubcentral), Ann-D (Headcharge) and Darqwan (Texture), along with a host of others.

A+D+A+M Lab4 (Live) will hit room 3 with pounding techno and hard house and Ninjatune chillout pioneer Mixmaster Morris will space people out in room 2. Also, don't miss The Orb as they take over the main room with an audio visual set of weird electronica cuts from their new album. As if that wasn't enough, all proceeds from the night will go to community radio station Sheffield Live! - so you can rest assured that your £12 will be spent wisely.

It's not just another club night - it's a ravers' movement.

Visit raveagainstracism.org for the full badman line up.

THE VINE.

160 CEMETERY RD.
0114 276 8920.

There are places that resonate with their clientele. There are pubs that adapt and mould themselves perfectly to the people who love them so much. The Vine is such a place. Go to the Vine and involve yourself in the scene of ravers, hippies, dreads, locals, students, nutters and much more. It's untrue.

The Vine Inn, like all our features, is an independent venture. It's located on Cemetery Road, off London road or down the hill from the top of Sharrowvale Road roundabout - you can find it on our map, in fact.

It has a large outdoor area, decked up with a hell of a view. Sheffield hill texture. The beer is affordable and doesn't leave you regretting the expense of a Mars bar. They have a pool table which is essential and again doesn't leave you blah de blah cheap popular confectionary. On this note it's worth mentioning they hold regular pool tournaments with cash prizes. Hands at your hips.

The Vine plays host to home grown local legends Riddimtion. They play there monthly and if you've not checked em out then do. The Vine also host open mic shows on a Wednesday, poker games on a Tuesday and a Sunday and (of course) regular beats on Friday and Saturday.

Perhaps the Vine's clearest trade mark is as the home of free party Sundays. If you want to find out more about that scene then this is the place to go, both before - for information - and after - for recovery and beer mat flipping. Many a golden ray of summer light has fallen on the tired shoulders of a bliss-ridden Headcharge pint-cradling party goer, and for that little nook of Sheffield history, it's worth a visit.

Get down there and get some local Sheffield party in you.

FILMREEL.

PAGE FORTY-TWO.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THESE.

LIKE BLACK FRUIT PASTILLES.

FAVOURITES.

PAGE FORTY-THREE.



END.

YOU HEARD.



Dulo delivers may bank holiday heat.....

saturday 2nd **Soul in the City**

This monthly jump off brings you the finest in hip hop, soul and R&B vibes from your hosts

Dj Ls
Lady D

Heavy business for yer sweet feet

sunday 3rd **Dulo BBQ Party**

Dulo residents come ever ready to work up some soul infused deep house vibes. This will be brought to you by these Sheffield heroes:

The African - Dulo
Dave Hardy - Maintain/Jus Records
Monkz - Dopeness/Phuture Boogie
Dan J - Dont walk...boogie
Swain - Dulo massive
Mf Marek - The Shakedown
The Colonel - The Shakedown
Other very special guests

This event will take place inside
and out for your absolute pleasure

Look out for the xtra special Dulo
birthday celebrations...

8pm til 1am
Dulo. 17 Cemetery rd. Sheff
facebook/bigupdulo
myspace/dulosheffield

mish mash

kitchen café bar



Upstairs lounge bar available for
FREE private hire, ring to book.

Midweek evening offer (tues & weds only)
Free bottle of house wine enjoyed with 3 courses

Mismatch acoustic night
1st wed of every month, all welcome, free entry.

for more information call -
0114 268 4074



617 ecclesall road - hunters bar - sheffield - s11 8pt

THIS IS YOUR CITY.



- | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----|-------------------------|
| 1. | HAYMAN'S. | 12. | STOCKROOM. |
| 2. | BEANIES. | 13. | MISH MASH. |
| 3. | THE RED HOUSE. | 14. | SHARROWVALE LAUNDRETTE. |
| 4. | THOU ART. | 15. | PORTER BOOKSHOP. |
| 5. | IDEOLOGY. | 16. | VINE. |
| 6. | PARTY ON. | 17. | DULO. |
| 7. | ROCKY HORRORS. | 18. | LOVE YOUR HAIR. |
| 8. | OLIVE BAR. | 19. | CREMORNE. |
| 9. | CORPORATION. | 20. | CAFE EURO. |
| 10. | DQ. | 21. | THE OLD SWEET SHOP. |
| 11. | PLUG. | | |

KEY.